

to be able to ask the question the first two weeks of the session? We won't even know the number of bills that are out here, let alone the fiscal impact.

SENATOR GEORGE: The section (3) in my amendment, Senator Koch, I would like to read that. "After March 1, but not later than March 15 of each year, the Tax Commissioner shall report to the Legislature the estimated amount of revenue to be received by the General Fund for the subsequent calendar year from the income and sales tax receipts and estimated General Fund receipts from franchise taxes and other miscellaneous sources." So we will have an estimate of what is available and then we can set the tax rate after we get the information by the Tax Commissioner.

SENATOR KOCH: But did I understand you correctly that you said the first two weeks we had to set the rate?

SENATOR GEORGE: The rate should be set on or before March 1 of each year.

SENATOR KOCH: On or before March 1 each year? Then I misunderstood and you said the first two weeks we would set the rate?

SENATOR GEORGE: No, the amendment says on or before March 1.

SENATOR KOCH: All right. Thank you.

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, and colleagues, I think Senator George's amendment....some of the reasons that you would oppose George's amendment would be the very same reason you would oppose the bill itself. Senator George wants to set the tax rates by March 1st. I think Senator Koch brought up a good point in that by March 1st, and it is March 1st right now, as far as this particular session is concerned, and I don't think we have really addressed all of the bills or not even a great percentage of the bills that might have fiscal ramifications on the tax rate. Now I think that is kind of flying blind or flying by the seat of our pants and I think we would have a tendency then to set the tax rate high to cover any possible contingency that may develop and I think we would have to do that just being prudent. Now knowing the conservative nature of this body and how it abhors spending money, I just think this body would not have enough information or enough knowledge to make that decision during the session and that is exactly the reason why the system as it is is good because the Board of Equalization now meets fifteen days after we adjourn for the first time. That is giving them an opportunity to look at the most current projections and also the new level of spending that was implemented by this specific body. Then they meet again approximately four or five or six months later in November, prior to the 15th of November, to make additional adjustments. Now the State Board of Equalization is not establishing policy when they meet. They are merely performing a mechanical function. Now there is still the unvariables, and I might say unknown variables, that come forward when we set tax rates. Number one, we don't know what the economy is and the economy can fluctuate and it can fluctuate dramatically in an agricultural state. Certainly by Fall, we have a pretty good